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Howard University Journal

A WEEKLY PAPER PUBLISHED BY THE STUDENTS OF HOWARD UNIVERSITY, WASHINGTON, D. C.

Volume XIV

FRIDAY, JANUARY 26, 1917


Number 14

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Should Howard Have the Honor System?

UCH conjecture has arisen among the members of the student body, as well as among some of the faculty, as to the expediency of introducing into Howard University the Honor System. Out of these conjectures the question naturally arises, Why should Howard not have an Honor System? Is it because its students are not yet equal to the task? Is it because the fixed traditions and long existence of the larger colleges render them more capable than Howard to maintain such a high standard of integrity?

No doubt many could be found who would answer either or both of the questions with the unconditional Yes. But be that as it may, the fact remains that a true decision cannot be reached with any degree of accuracy, until the system has been tried. Presupposition as to unreadiness and unfitness on such a question will not apply to a student body like Howard's.

We have listened to arguments pro and con on the wisdom of adopting such a policy, and have heard some of the opposers, with eloquent words and high sounding phrases, paint graphic pictures of how our environment, both permanent and temporary,

makes weak for us the foundation upon which the participants of such a system must stand. But to us this kind of argument seems fallacious. Howard University was instituted to turn out into the world men and women—men and women who must rely upon their own resources, and who must meet the great problems of life on a plane of self-reliance. The school does not accompany them throughout the journey to watch them, and remind them of those matchless virtues—Honesty and Integrity.

(Continued on Page 3)

To the Mother of Paul Lawrence Dunbar

A Sonnet

Though Fame and Fortune held their outstretched hands.

Laden with gifts of honor and of wealth
So low that all the people in all lands,
Desiring riches, honor fame and health,
Had but to raise their hands an inch or two

To grasp these joys and many more beside—

No matter if they be not their just due,
And this to swell their pleasure and their pride;

I would take nought but health to help me live,


Long to enjoy the wondrous thoughts of him,

Thy Son, whom Heaven saw fit to give

As a bright star to this dark world
I would be like you, ere my life is done,
The worthy mother of a worthy son.

Jessie F. Halestalk, '20.

The Y. M. C. A. of Yesterday and Today

N his book on Logic, Professor Creighton of Cornell University draws a nice distinction between empirical and scientific knowledge. He says: "It is, of course, true that a large part of everyone's knowledge is empirical in character. We all know many things which we cannot explain." He speaks of scientific knowledge as that knowledge which is interested in the discovery of facts.

College men should not be satisfied merely to know that there exist today various organizations, societies, and institutions of religious, political and educational nature, but they should have at their command a fund of information concerning them. This calls for careful and painstaking research work. Although this work is very laborious, it should appeal to college men who wish their knowledge to be scientific rather than empirical.

The Y. M. C. A. is an organization seventy-three years old. Its history, purpose and principles invite the consideration and study of college men everywhere. It was founded at London, June 6, 1844 by George William and christened by his room-mate, Christopher Smith. Little did Williams think that

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this association would ever become world-wide in its influence. He organized it primarily for the young men in London who were being attracted to that city by the unexcelled opportunities for work which the industrial revolution in England had given.

Williams arrived in London in 1814. He found many temptations there which were morally degrading,—thousands of young men who, like himself, had come from good Christian homes in the country. The moral and spiritual equilibrium of Geo. Williams was not disturbed by the new and unwholesome environment in which he found himself. He was touched and grieved, however, to see so many young men in London straying from the teachings of their Christian parents. In order to save them from moral degradation he organized the Y. M. C. A., where religious exercises and Bible instructions were made available.

Encouraged by the success of the Y. M. C. A. in London, Williams established organizations, not only in other English cities but in Paris, Geneva, and finally in Germany.

By means of prayer meetings, Bible classes, parlors, gymnasiums, reading rooms and educational classes, the Y. M. C. A. movement in England grew to

gigantic proportions, and did much to elevate the moral, spiritual, and mental life of the young men throughout the empire, who had rushed into the city to improve their economic conditions.

This great religious movement for the elevation of young men soon found its way into the United States. The first Y. M. C. A. in this country was established at Boston, Dec. 29, 1851 by Captain Thomas V. Sullivan who had heard of the successful work of George Williams.

While the founding of the organization both in England and the United States was for the express purpose of benefiting young men spiritually, it has seen fit to undertake educational work on a broad scale. Today the Y. M. C. A. stands for the educational, physical and social welfare of young men as well as for their spiritual welfare.

Since the Y. M. C. A. in America has shown that it stands for a thorough development of manhood and boyhood, placing, as it does, great emphasis on character-building it has won the hearty support of educators, theologians, financiers and men in other vocations of life. Yale University has added a course of study to her School of Theology, which prepares young men especially for Y. M. C. A. work. The Bachelor of Divinity degree is offered. In 1885 and 1899 Y. M. C. A. colleges were established at Springfield, Massachusetts and Chicago, respectively. These colleges are devoted entirely to the preparation of young men to become Y. M. C. A. secretaries and physical directors.

The secretaryship of the Y. M. C. A. has become a position of much dignity and influence, especially among Negroes. The colored Y. M. C. A. work is indeed growing rapidly. New associations are being established annually. Business men and philanthropists welcome the

opportunity to contribute large sums of money for the erection of colored Y. M. C. A. buildings. This work has opened to the educated Negro a new field in which he may serve his race. There is an increasing demand for efficient physical directors and competent secretaries.

Perhaps there are young men in Howard University who are pursuing their college course, but have not yet chosen a profession. If there be any such persons, may they, in deciding upon their life's work, consider the advisability of dedicating and consecrating their lives, like the late International Secretary W. H. Hunton, to teaching young men how they may become true disciples of Jesus Christ, both in words and in deeds; and how they may contribute to the extension of His kingdom among men.

Uzziah Miner, Col. '18.

Plans for the Honor System Near Completion

Definite steps toward the adoption of the honor system in the Teachers College were taken on Friday, when a committee, representing each of the four classes, assembled and drew up a constitution to be presented to their classes for their approval and revision, after which the students and committee hope for the final stamp of approval which will place so desirable a movement on a working basis. The students of the college have every reason to anticipate a speedy adoption of the system. Details concerning it have been presented, not only to the classes

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Friday, January 26, 1917

EDITORIAL

Is Student Government Practical?

¶ That student government is practicable at Howard can best be attested through a trial. The mere saying or believing that the Howard students are unable to govern themselves does not justify the denial. They should first have an opportunity to will and act according to the dictates of their own consciences and to their own ideas of right and wrong. The University officials should express their confidence in the students' ability for self-government by giving them a

chance to assume such responsibility. This alone must be done before the officials can justly say that self government is impracticable; this alone must be granted before those same officials shall have done justice to the student body.

We find student government in many of the eastern colleges. Before the introduction of student government at Yale, immoral conduct was excessively high and extremely popular; but since the initiation of this honor system at Yale, vice is almost a novelty. This can be said of many colleges that are blessed with student government. We admit that there is a difference between Yale students and Howard students—that difference in each instance is only one of environment—but we contend that the natures of each student body respond to the expressions of confidence and trust almost in the same way.

To base the impracticability of Howard student government on an ethical standard is equally unjust. The same ideas of right and wrong permeate the psychical self of this student body as forcibly as they permeate the psychical self of any other. Howard students are not from heathen realms; they come from christian homes that are influenced by a christian government.

Then why hesitate to give to the Howard students a chance to become useful to themselves and to humanity? The usefulness of any "self" is always expressed in the government of that "self." This, then, would be the primary step towards universal usefulness. Grant such to the Howard students. Permit them to succeed or to fail fairly before you recline on a couch of mere fancy and say that they are unable to govern themselves, and that student government is impracticable in the realms of Howard.

A Word

¶ Those young men that had nothing else to do but to take the "red" lanterns from the car tracks should be punished. Those lanterns are put along the line for public safety; they are there to warn and to safeguard the public against danger. In fact, the lives of all are dependent, to a large degree, upon those "red" lights. The city demands those lights for safety. They are put there for a purpose. Those Howardites (?) violated the laws of the city, and endangered the good name of the University when they moved those lanterns. The University cannot be too rigid in making those fellows pay the penalty. Howard University stands for law and order, for obedience and respect to the law. The purpose of the University is to make good citizens and to foster all efforts in that direction.

The students of Howard should always remember that it is their duty to do everything for the good of Howard, and never to perpetrate an act that is opposed to her teachings and wishes.

We trust that the University will put an end to this violation of law by her students. This is the first case and we hope the last one. No sympathy is due those violators, and no such pranks should be tolerated.

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STUDENTS' OPINION

Democracy at Howard

The restless winds of discontent have, for a long time, been whispering the word "democracy" into the ears of Howard students. In every quarter, the voice of students rights and of student government is engaging much attention.

That university students are to possess a large share of student government, no one can doubt. It is from such a body of students that our future leaders are to come; and they should, therefore, be allowed to manage their own affairs as they must on entering into the arena of actual life. Yet, we are sincere in our conviction that unless students display the ability and capacity for self-government, they should not be allowed to share it.

It is with regret that we must admit that Howard University students have not shown any

marked degree of democratic consciousness. The class meetings, instead of being the places where business should be carried on in the spirit of democratic propriety, have degenerated into hot-beds of petty disputes. The Alpha Phi Literary Society is rather a social gathering than a literary meeting. At present, the Athletic Association, the leading student organization of the University, is unable to hold its meeting, due to the indifference on the part of the students. Its previous meetings might aptly be characterized as occasions on which valuable time has been squandered in endless discussions over trivial points of parliamentary procedure.

Do such examples warrant the granting of further self government to Howard students? Factions and cliques have become so contentious that the spirit of self-government is to-day hanging in the balance. "He who would govern others must first govern himself," is as applicable within the confines of Howard University as within the world's broad field of battles. To those who clamor for more self-government we reply, first of all, you must properly manage the affairs in your control at present before you can ask, with justice, for more affairs to manage.

The students of to-day are to be the citizens of tomorrow. We are preparing ourselves at Howard that we may the more fittingly play our parts on the stage of life. The foundation of our political system rests upon democracy, and those who disregard the opportunity to become schooled in its fundamental principle; namely, self-government, are to that extent cheating society. The intention of everything in the universe is for the uplift of humanity and those who, having had the opportunity, do not direct their lives towards this end have not lived lives worth while.

G. B. Washington, '17.

Simplified Spelling

That a language should change and grow from time to time is as essential as the language itself. But any such radical and revolutionary method as Mr. Roosevelt introduced ten years ago will fail to meet with opposition only when we shall have lost the pride and desire for keeping our language pure.

For many years the so called "language tinkers" were at work, but attracted little or no attention till Mr. Roosevelt attempted to nationalize such words as altho, confest, dipt, kist, sipt thru, tho etc. Whether the innovation will gain any permanency is yet to be decided, for such a test can only be made according as future scholars accept or reject the abbreviations.

A truly significant feature of the movement is the divisions of opinion by the highest authorities. On the one hand, we find President Wilson, President Eliot and Professor Peck rebelling against such a movement; whereas on the other hand, we find

(Continued on Page 7)

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ATHLETICS

Thos. A. Lemon, Editor

Juniors Defeat the Second Year Academy 14—6

In a fast and closely contested game last Saturday, the Junior College basketball team met and defeated the second year Academy team by a score of 14 to 6. The Academy boys fought well, and revealed the fact that they had been trained to play organized basketball. Their team work was perfect, but their shooting was wild and uncertain. That they must have had a good team is evidenced by the fact that they held the Junior five to a score of 14—6.

On the Junior side were excellent defense, offense, and team work. The team was well organized and it played a five-man game.

The work of Ross, Hawk, and Williams was a decisive factor in the game. But if Koger and Howard had not been present, the score would have, in all probability, been reversed. Koger played a near-star game, and Charles Bartholemew Howard starred. Many times when it seemed as if the Juniors were beaten, Charles came forward

and, in his enthusiasm, fairly crushed the plucky Academy boys, and piled up the score for the Juniors. This game has brought Howard to the light, and has opened the way for him to be named All-American center for Basketball in the near future. Manager Ross and Captain Tucker both expressed their satisfaction at the showing made by Howard, and voiced their regret that he is not playing on the Varsity. But they feel certain, that with sufficient persuasion, Bartholemew will finally consent to be a Varsity man, and will insure for Howard many victories.

The teams presented a good clean game; and, although the Academy boys lost, they were manly in their department. Of course the Juniors knew well how to accept victory, and they deported themselves accordingly.

Every Saturday afternoon there will be one of these inter-class games in Spaulding Hall, and a good enthusiastic crowd is always welcome.

The New Directors of Athletics

At a recent meeting of the Athletic Association, managers for Baseball, Tennis, Cricket, Track, and Football were elected.

Mr. Hightower, as manager of the baseball team, brings to his office the compiled results of a long experience as a player, combined with a keen business sense that renders him an invaluable asset to the sport. Already he has completed an elaborate schedule, the successful maintenance of which necessitates an all star nine. But the thorough training to which he is planning to subject his men will develop a

team whose supremacy will be unquestioned.

Over the Tennis activities has been placed Mr. Perkins. His clear insight into the delicate intricacies of the game, and his unquestioned ability to guide and direct this fancy sport attest most strongly his peculiar fitness for such a high office. He is now working out plans, the development of which will not fail to elevate tennis to its rightfully high plane of importance.

The election of Mr. C. A. Morgan for a second term to manage the cricket team is the highest tribute that could have been paid to his efficiency. He is already hard at work forming a schedule which will mean much to the cricket world. His development of a strong team is a foregone conclusion. Mr. John Camper will direct the track activities for this year. Himself a good runner, an excellent provider, and a superb manager, Mr. Camper can do nothing else but round out wonderful track men. His schedule is extensive, but he feels certain that there can be nothing but a continual string of victories for his men. Under such guidance, track activities must play an important rôle this year.

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Football, with its worries and trials, will be managed this year by Mr. Bernard Harris. This gentleman has a long experience which has taught him many valuable lessons concerning football and its proper management. Not only is he an efficient football player, but he is also an expert in handling football men. A heavy schedule has been staged for Howard next season, and Mr. Harris is determined to maintain it without the loss of a single game. He means to restore to Howard her lost supremacy, and to do it in a very decided manner. If an efficient team is the requirement, then the requirement will be fulfilled ungrudgingly.

With these gentlemen as directors of her sports, Howard may feel certain that her supremacy in every phase of sportdom is assured.

Howard Student to Sail for Africa

Mr. Thomas Hezekiah Lloyd, formerly of Shaw University, now a Sophomore in the College of Arts and Sciences, has answered the call of the International Y. M. C. A. for a young man to do foreign mission work among the wounded Dutch, Indian, and English Soldiers in far away Africa.

Mr. Lloyd will sail from New York in company with Mr. F. D. Balou of Knoxville College, on February 10th. Their work will consist of doing anything that their hands find to do, that will ameliorate the suffering condition of the helpless soldiers.

Mr. Lloyd leaves with the intention of returning to Howard University at the close of his African Mission.

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Simplified Spelling

(Continued from Page 5)

Professor Matthews, Professor Lounsbury, and President Butler pleading for the cause of simplified spelling. The presumption, however, seems to be in favor of the former group, for as President Eliot points out, even the advocates of simplified spelling are careful not to use it on formal occasions.

One question that might be asked is, "To what end or purpose is the change?" It does not aid or effect pronunciation; and if it is to save time and type, can we afford to pay the price? What is to become of the etymology? And what shall be done with the large volumes in the libraries? The whole thing would seem to indicate a complication that is unnecessary as well as undesirable. But perhaps the most wretched result will be the divesting the mother tongue of its dress and dignity. English spelling is the result of long protracted synthesis. Any phonetic clipping can only result in robbing it of its historic purity.

True it is that seventy of our progressive colleges, as well as many of our leading periodicals, have given sanction to simplified spelling, but until adequate reason is advanced, the conservatives will not consent to this distorting of the language, and robbing it of its clothes of true scholarship. The language will change fast enough without any deliberate and parsimonious attempt to simplify it; and we do not believe that the time is near at hand when the American scholar will be willing to accept the "Deklarashun ov Independence" for the Declaration of Independence. Perhaps the best argument against the movement, however, is its utter failure thus far to intrench itself in the language; for after twelve years of activity it seems virtually as far away and as little used as ever.

—Thomas B. D. Dyett.

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individually, where it has been discussed with much deliberation, but also to the Pestalozzi-Froebel Society in the form of a fifteen minute debate.

The committee, in drawing up the constitution, found itself face to face with numerous problems. The peculiar sentiments of students in regard to their duty as "their brothers' keepers," and the signing of a pledge, the impracticability of the system in a classroom where several departments are represented, and the opposition of both students and faculty to student control, could not be overlooked, for on these three arguments rests the opposition. Because of such arguments the constitution was made, as, in the words of Prof. Baldwin, it should be, "short, simple, definite," with each argument in mind, but in as far as the system is concerned, conciliatory to no one of them.

The value of the work accomplished rests with the college. Never will its student body be better prepared for so great an undertaking. The boasted position of the University among

other Negro educational institutions demands that from her shall emanate so reputable a movement for the increased individual responsibility, confidence and respect of the younger race. But a little cooperation on the part of the student and faculty is necessary to place not only the college but the university on the list with those institutions which have already reaped the manifold blessings of this system. —*Olive C. Cesar, '18.*

Should Howard Have the Honor System?

(Continued from Page 1)

But instead, it turns them loose young, inexperienced, and in the springtime of their lives. The world, into which they must go to battle for existence, has no time to listen to excuses for unreadiness because of environment, or of weakness because of tradition, but insistently demands the finished product. It wants, not eye-servants but finished individuals who are well grounded in the fundamentals of efficiency, honesty, and integrity, which will enable them to meet the exigencies of the world, not as weaklings to be watched, but as strong, honorable, trustworthy men and women who consider right their duty and honor their bond.

In the light of these facts, then, it seems but obvious that such a system would go far toward enabling the students to acquire those virtues which will go with them out into the world and characterize them as honest, upright, college-bred men and women.

—*H. Dodford Dismukes, '18.*

Dental School

Dr Just exempted all Freshmen, of the Dental School from the examination in Physiology, who had maintained a daily average of 75 and above. The names are as follows;

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Powell Johnson	80
R. H. Thompson	95
H. C. Roberts	95
J. E. Johnston	90
J. R. Lynch	90
J. B. Lovell	90
R. N. Berwick	90
H. J. Dubasett	90
J. S. Russell	95
W. A. Timus	80
N. H. Coleman	85
H. S. Johnson	80
B. O. Gibbs	85
L. P. Roberfoot	80
J. Hubbard	80
R. B. Taylor	80
W. L. Thompson	80
E. L. Williams	80
E. Verdin	95
S. C. Parks	80
J. G. Hillman	75
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T. W. Lenore	75
J. C. Mitchell	75
H. Reed	79
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